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Mike Johanns, Secretary of Agriculture

Mr. Secretary:

I attended the 2007 Farm Bill Forum in Nashville, Tennessee, on July 7, 2005. I appreciate very much your time and interest to listen to suggestions particularly from young farmers.

I wanted to make a comment concerning the problem that exists not only in Tennessee but nation wide. The forests of Tennessee are alive and well but we are losing forest acres as well as farm land to fragmentation due to urbanization.

There are 118,000,000 acres of forest land in Tennessee, 80 percent of which is owned by family farmers. (20 percent by industry and parks).

If the youth and future farmers of tomorrow are to have a chance to achieve what their creed advocates then something must be done to hold for them the land to farm and the forests to supplement their livelihood.

Are there some programs or tax incentives that would help to insure that the farms and forests would remain relatively stable for them to be able to furnish food and fiber to this nation in the future?

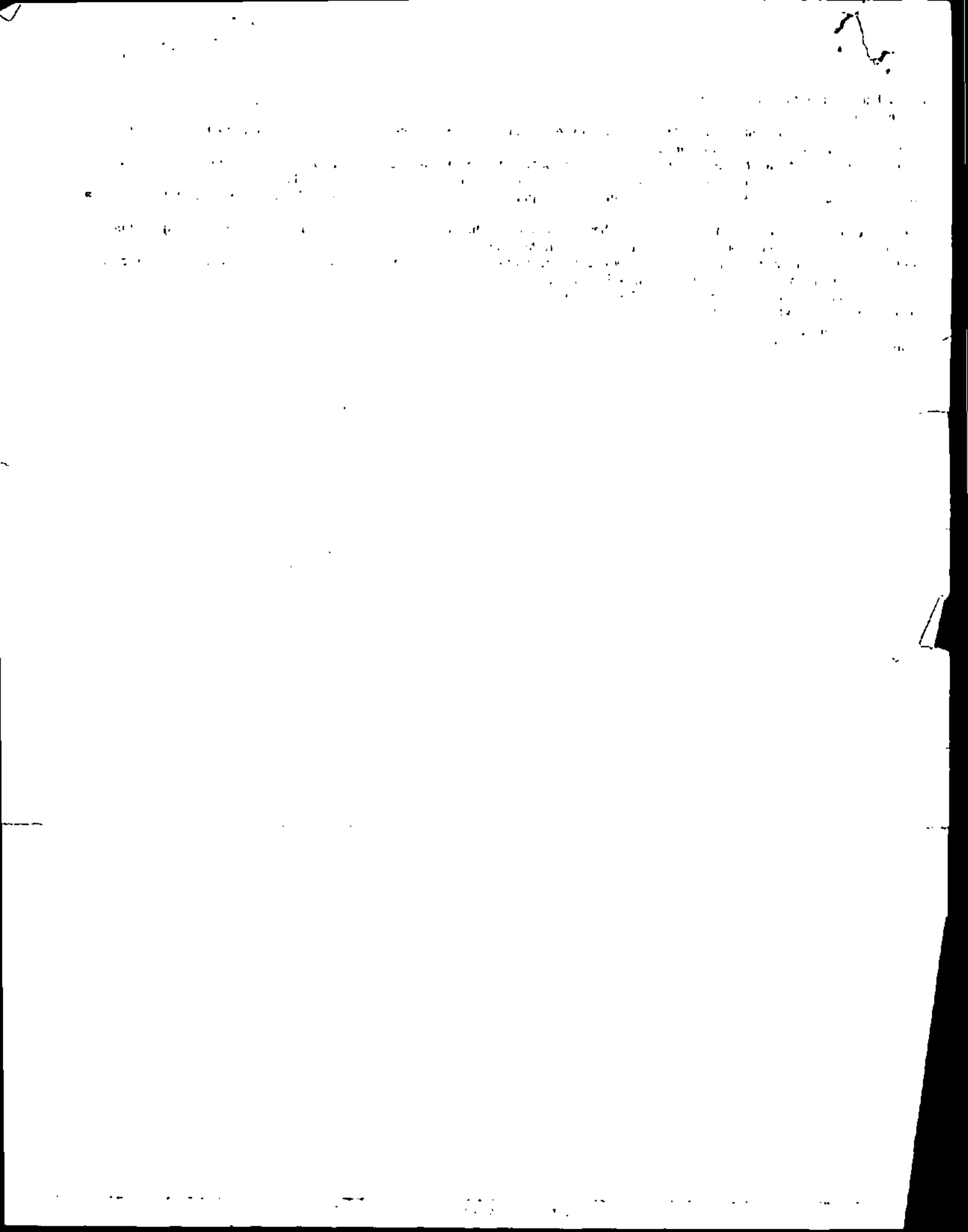
I am a farmer and forest land owner from West Tennessee.

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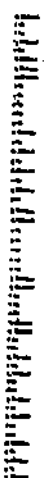
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